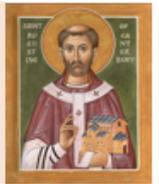




CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



PP: Fr Denis Sarsfield. Parish Office: 01462 893127. Email: Baldock@rcdow.org.uk

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 28th January 2024

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

The importance of racial justice and why we work for it

Bishop's Message for Racial Justice Sunday

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice, explains the theme and offers Catholics suggestions to mark the day.

One key focus is for us to look at our 'saints of colour', men and women who made their life's work to oppose racism and to promote equality and justice.

Hello. My name is Bishop Paul McAleenan. The theme of Racial Justice Sunday in England and Wales in 2024 is 'Seeing one another in the life of the Church'. There are different ways that the theme could be approached. I would like to suggest one particular way.

In the history of the Church, there have been those who looked at the society in which they lived, and responded to what they saw. They looked, made a decision based on what they saw, and acted. Alert and sensitive as they were to the commandments of Christ, when they saw justice being denied to someone because of their racial origin or colour, they were prompted to act. Their actions of opposing racism, promoting equality and justice, became their life's work. Following this path, sometimes they encountered hostility, rejection, and attempts to overturn what they were doing.

However, they persevered and became instruments of change, agents of progress, and some are acknowledged as saints of the Church. There are many, many saints in the Church. Each is different. Each chose to follow a particular aspect of the person of Jesus.

Some saw Jesus as a teacher and devoted their lives to teaching. Some followed Jesus as one who loved the sick, and opened hospices and hospitals. Others saw Jesus as the friend of the poor and gave witness to that. Among the saints are those who remembered the words of Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right. They shall be satisfied." And then they spent their lives working that everyone would be treated justly, with fairness and without discrimination.

Readings Parish Mass Book page 132

For Racial Justice Sunday this year, can I suggest that you explore the lives of those great men and women - those who devoted their lives to the pursuit of racial justice, those who emulated God's passion for justice, which we read about in the scriptures. They will inspire us, teach us, and make us sensitive to the importance of racial justice and why we work for it.

May we too, like them, see one another in the life of the Church

FUNERAL NOTICE

Sid Lazarus' Requiem Mass will be on the 15th February at 11.45am followed by cremation at Harewood Park Crematorium all are most welcome

DEFENDING OUR FAITH

Most of us will, at one time or another, have been faced with family members who express doubts about the Faith or the Church, to excuse themselves from attending Mass, or with friends who question our beliefs. How often do we find ourselves struck dumb at these times, unable or unwilling to answer and comfort ourselves by thinking that it is not for us to force our views on others and comfort ourselves with the hope that one day the lapsed person might return to the Church by some spark of revelation?

St. Peter tells us that we must: "*always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.*" Therefore we should not, in conscience, keep silent when challenged about our faith, especially if a soul might be lost by our silence. Nor should we leave doubts or arguments unanswered and expect God to do the work he commissioned us to do.

St. Peter requires us to "be prepared" for such occasions and we should therefore try to discover what kind of answers we might give to the most common questions that we might expect to face, perhaps because we have heard them before. Questions touching the existence of God, science and faith and modern concepts of morality, for example. In this we need help and a very practical source of help may be found in a little booklet called "Apologia" (meaning a 'defence' and not an 'apology') by Frs. Marcus Holden and Andrew Pinsent. They have set out to answer briefly and succinctly many of the questions, arguments and half-truths that we may face as Catholics in this

RC HOSPITAL

CHAPLAIN: John O'Neil. Please call the Chaplaincy office at the Lister Hospital
Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518,

FOR ALL GENERAL PARISH ENQUIRIES

CONTACT: Parish Office: Tel: 01462 893127

CHURCH HALL HIRE:

Please contact parish office 01462 893127

BAPTISM

PREPARATION: For further information please contact the parish office on 01462-893127 .

RCIA COURSE: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programme consists of regular weekly meetings; if you would like to find out more please speak directly to Fr. Denis.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL is our Catholic Parish Primary School. Parish families are welcome to visit and have a tour of the school. Contact the School Office or the Head teacher, Mr Tom Timson 01462 892478

The school website is <http://www.stjohns4.herts.sch.uk/index.html>

NEWSLETTER

Please submit items for inclusion, preferably by Tuesday evening, by either emailing the parish email address (baldock@rcdow.org.uk) or handing them to Fr. Denis. Thank you

VATICAN NEWS

Remember that you can keep up with all the latest news from The Vatican at the Official Vatican Network www.news.va/en.

Your SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

have responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people, and adults at risk. Please Contact: Patricia Cusack & Colette Murphy Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

secular age so that we may make our defence of our faith in the face of the unbelief or doubts of our friends and families and perhaps even sow the seed that brings them back to the Church. Remember always that we have the advantage of having the Truth which has been revealed by God Himself.

Some copies of the booklet have been made available at the back of the Church at the reduced price of £2.50 each. Please put the money in the repository cash box.

CRAFT & CHAT. Our next meeting is this Friday, 2nd February, 9.30 to 11am in the Holy Family room. We

welcome any adult crafters who enjoy knitting, sewing, embroidery etc. £2 per session which goes towards church funds.

Any queries please phone Mary 07366596671.

YOUNG @ HEART

Our next coffee morning will be on Thursday 15th February after the 10am mass. The sacrament of the sick will be administered during the mass. We provide the tea/ coffee and cakes all you have to provide is the chat!! All cake donations very welcome.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Session 1: Tuesday, 8th February at 7.30pm

Session 2: Tuesday, 13th February 7.30 30 pm If you are interested in joining the baptism course please contact Richard and Marie Miller. Please contact the

parish office on 01462-893127

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The marriage preparation course will take place on **Saturday 2nd March** starting at 1.30 pm and on the **Sunday 3rd March** at 3.30pm. This course will be online. For further information please contact Reman McDonagh on reman.mcdonagh@hotmail.com

THE CHURCH HALL

The hall is ready to hold events, parties, workshops, birthday parties etc. seating for 50 people, £15 per hour. If you are planning an event do now consider this venue

CONTACTLESS CARD

NEW -We now accept donations by Contactless Card It is for those who wish to make a donation by card; we can now accept card payments for general donations. It is very easy to use. If you need help please do ask. The machine is on the back table of the church.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially; Celia Sheehan, Mary Callaghan, Simon Campion, and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, Sidney Lazarus, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Claude Geary; Joseph Craster; Erna Wells; James (Seamus) Duff; Carmela Martin; Matthew Bolton; Daniel Sheehan; Peter Francis; Isabella Brogden; Thomas Burke; Sr. Ailbe O'Callaghan; Annie Bartram; Nicholas D'Addario; Mary Anne Draper; Mary Anne Draper.

Please note, only one mass this week which will be on Wednesday 31st.

Sat 27 th	6.30pm	
Sun 28 th	8.30am 10.30am	Francis' intentions Sidney Lazarus RIP
Mon 29 th	No mass	
Tue 30 th	No mass	
Wed 31 st	10.00am	St John Bosco
Thu 1 st	No mass	
Fri 2 nd	No mass	Friday Abstinence,

Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered.

Fr. Denis is still celebrating the Vigil Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night & Sunday Mass at 10.30am. All are accessible through the Parish Facebook page: **Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury**. For more information, please go to the Parish website. The Wednesday word is available via: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>